المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

PRESS RELEASE
6 January 1989

HANDS OFF LIBYA

In a statement issued today the London-based Islamic Council strongly condemned the shooting down by the United States of two Libyan Mig 23 aircraft on 4 January.

The Council also expressed grave concern about reports that the United States was making military preparations to destroy what Libya claims is a plant for making medicines but which the United States insists is a factory for making chemical weapons.

The Council said that Libya had offered the plant for international inspection to refute the US allegations. Why does not the United States avail itself of this offer and settle the issue in a civilised manner?

The Council added that if the United States were really sincere in preventing the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, especially in the Middle East, then it must start by getting rid of the extensive manufacturing facilities and large stocks of these weapons in Israel, and thus make a major contribution to world peace.

The statement said that on several occasions the Reagan Administration had resorted to the law of the jungle instead of international law and the United Nations Organisation to settle international issues.

The Council expressed the hope that the UK, Western Europe and the Soviet Union would use their good offices to persuade the United States to act with the responsibility and dignity which the world expects of the US super power. The Council also called upon the governments and rulers of Arab states to stand united and take concrete steps to face the grave situation created by threats of further US aggression against Libya.

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